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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/608,022	06/30/2000	Paul Lapstun	NPA072US	9026

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BALMAIN, 2041  
AUSTRALIA

EXAMINER

SUBRAMANIAN, NARAYANSWAMY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/608,022

Applicant(s)

LAPSTUN ET AL.

Examiner

Narayanswamy Subramanian

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

*Election/Restrictions*

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-3 and 8-28, drawn to a method of enabling an auction buyer to submit a bid, the method including the steps of - providing the auction buyer with a form containing information relating to a bid transaction, the form including coded data indicative of an identity of the form and of at least one reference point of the form; receiving, in a computer system, indicating data from a sensing device regarding the identity of the form and a position of the sensing device relative to the form, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the form, sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data; and identifying, in the computer system and from the indicating data, at least one parameter relating to the bid transaction, classified in class 705, subclass 37.

II. Claims 4, 8-23 and 25-28, drawn to a method of enabling an auction buyer to submit a bid, the method including the steps of: providing the auction buyer with a form containing information relating to a bid transaction, the form including coded data indicative of at least one parameter of the bid transaction; receiving, in a computer system, data from a sensing device regarding said at least one parameter and regarding movement of the sensing device relative to the form, the sensing device, when moved relative to the form, sensing the data regarding said at least one parameter using at least some of the coded data and generating the data regarding its own movement relative to the form; and interpreting, in the computer system, said movement of the sensing device as it relates to said at least one parameter, classified in class 705, subclass 37.

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III. Claims 5-7, 8-25, 27 and 28, drawn to a method of enabling an auction buyer to submit a bid, the method including the steps of providing the auction buyer with a form including coded data indicative of an identity of the form; receiving, in a computer system, data from a sensing device regarding an identity of the auction buyer and regarding the identity of the form, the sensing device containing the data regarding the identity of the auction buyer and sensing the data regarding the identity of the form using at least some of the coded data; and identifying, in the computer system and from the data regarding the identity of the auction buyer and the identity of the form, a bid transaction, classified in class 705, subclass 37.

IV. Claims 29-31, 36-46 and 48, drawn to a system for enabling an auction buyer to submit a bid, the system including a form containing information relating to a bid transaction, the form including coded data indicative of an identity of the form and of at least one reference point of the form; and a computer system for receiving indicating data from a sensing device for identifying at least one parameter relating to the bid transaction, the indicating data being indicative of the identity of the form and a position of the sensing device relative to the form, the sensing device sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data, classified in class 705, subclass 37.

V. Claims 32 and 36-48, drawn to a system for enabling an auction buyer to submit a bid, the system including a form containing information relating to a bid transaction, the form including coded data indicative of at least one parameter of the bid transaction; and a computer system for receiving data from a sensing device regarding said at least one parameter and regarding movement of the sensing device relative to the form, and for interpreting said movement of the sensing device as it relates to said at least one parameter, the sensing device,

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when moved relative to the form, sensing the data regarding said at least one parameter using at least some of the coded data and generating the data regarding its own movement relative to the form, classified in class 705, subclass 37.

VI. Claims 33-42 and 44-48, drawn to a system for enabling an auction buyer to submit a bid, the system including a form including coded data indicative of an identity of the form; and a computer system for receiving from a sensing device data regarding an identity of the auction buyer and the identity of the form, and for identifying, from said received data, a bid transaction, the sensing device containing the data regarding the identity of the auction buyer and sensing the data regarding the identity of the form using at least some of the coded data, classified in class 705, subclass 37.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as sub combinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The sub combinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I relates to a method of enabling an auction buyer to submit a bid, the method including the steps of - providing the auction buyer with a form containing information relating to a bid transaction, the form including coded data indicative of an identity of the form and of at least one reference point of the form; receiving, in a computer system, indicating data from a sensing device regarding the identity of the form and a position of the sensing device relative to the form, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the form, sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data; and identifying, in the computer system and from the indicating data, at least one parameter relating to the bid transaction, whereas invention II relates to a method of enabling an

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auction buyer to submit a bid, the method including the steps of: providing the auction buyer with a form containing information relating to a bid transaction, the form including coded data indicative of at least one parameter of the bid transaction; receiving, in a computer system, data from a sensing device regarding said at least one parameter and regarding movement of the sensing device relative to the form, the sensing device, when moved relative to the form, sensing the data regarding said at least one parameter using at least some of the coded data and generating the data regarding its own movement relative to the form; and interpreting, in the computer system, said movement of the sensing device as it relates to said at least one parameter. See MPEP § 806.05(d). Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper even though they are classified in the same class and sub class.

Inventions I and III are related as sub combinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The sub combinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I relates to a method of enabling an auction buyer to submit a bid, the method including the steps of - providing the auction buyer with a form containing information relating to a bid transaction, the form including coded data indicative of an identity of the form and of at least one reference point of the form; receiving, in a computer system, indicating data from a sensing device regarding the identity of the form and a position of the sensing device relative to the form, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the form, sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data; and identifying, in the computer system and from the indicating data, at least one parameter relating to the bid transaction, whereas invention III relates to a method of enabling an

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auction buyer to submit a bid, the method including the steps of providing the auction buyer with a form including coded data indicative of an identity of the form; receiving, in a computer system, data from a sensing device regarding an identity of the auction buyer and regarding the identity of the form, the sensing device containing the data regarding the identity of the auction buyer and sensing the data regarding the identity of the form using at least some of the coded data; and identifying, in the computer system and from the data regarding the identity of the auction buyer and the identity of the form, a bid transaction. See MPEP § 806.05(d). Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group III, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper even though they are classified in the same class and sub class.

Inventions I and IV are related as sub combinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The sub combinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I relates to a method of enabling an auction buyer to submit a bid, the method including the steps of - providing the auction buyer with a form containing information relating to a bid transaction, the form including coded data indicative of an identity of the form and of at least one reference point of the form; receiving, in a computer system, indicating data from a sensing device regarding the identity of the form and a position of the sensing device relative to the form, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the form, sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data; and identifying, in the computer system and from the indicating data, at least one parameter relating to the bid transaction, whereas invention IV relates to a system for enabling an auction buyer to submit a bid, the system including a form containing information relating to a

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bid transaction, the form including coded data indicative of an identity of the form and of at least one reference point of the form; and a computer system for receiving indicating data from a sensing device for identifying at least one parameter relating to the bid transaction, the indicating data being indicative of the identity of the form and a position of the sensing device relative to the form, the sensing device sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data. See MPEP § 806.05(d). Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group IV, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper even though they are classified in the same class and sub class.

Similarly other pairing of inventions stated above are related as sub combinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. These inventions are distinct from each other as can be evident from the definition of the groups described above. Also they require separate searches and hence restriction of these inventions for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

3. A telephone call was made to Kia Silverbrook on July 31, 2003 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

4. Applicants are advised that reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Narayanswamy Subramanian whose telephone number is (703) 305-4878. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's



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supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached at (703) 308-1065. The fax number for Formal or Official faxes and Draft or Informal faxes to Technology Center 3600 or this Art Unit is (703) 305-7687. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

N. Subramanian  
August 5, 2003

Richard Weisberger  
Primary Examiner